

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, after the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of application serial number 10/042,785, filed January 9, 2002, entitled "TREE CLIMING APPARATUS"--.

On page 4, please replace the second full paragraph beginning at line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As seen in Fig. 3, the first platform 12 further comprises a pair of support arms 16 adapted to releasably engage each end of the first flexible strap 14. The support arms 16 preferably engage the first flexible strap 14 by means of a plurality of apertures 18 in the support arms 16, the first flexible strap having a spring clip 20 at each end which can be releasably attached to one of the plurality of apertures 18. In this manner, the first flexible strap 14 is adjustable to accommodate tree trunks T with varying diameter.

On page 4, please replace the sixth full paragraph beginning at line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As seen in Figs. 5-7, the second platform 40 further comprises a pair of support arms 44 adapted to releasably engage each end of the second flexible strap 42. The support arms 44 preferably engage the second flexible strap 42 by means of a plurality of apertures 46 in the support arms 44, the second flexible strap 42 having a spring clip 48 at each end which can be releasably attached to one of the plurality of apertures 46. In this manner, the second flexible strap 42 is adjustable to accommodate tree trunks T with varying diameter.